



**Connecticut's Legislative Commission on Aging**  
*A nonpartisan research and public policy office of the Connecticut General Assembly*

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Testimony of

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Energy and Technology Committee  
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Senator Duff, Representative Reed and esteemed members of the Energy and Technology Committee, my name is Julia Evans Starr and I am the Executive Director of Connecticut's Legislative Commission on Aging. I thank you for this opportunity to comment on RB 110: An Act Concerning Fraud Prevention in Connecticut's Utility Termination Protection Programs.

As you know, Connecticut's Legislative Commission on Aging is the non-partisan, public policy office of the General Assembly devoted to preparing Connecticut for a significantly changed demographic and enhancing the lives of the present and future generations of older adults. For over twenty years, the Legislative Commission on Aging has served as an effective leader in statewide efforts to promote choice, independence and dignity for Connecticut's older adults and persons with disabilities.

**RB 110: An Act Concerning Fraud Prevention in Connecticut's Utility Termination Protection Programs. ~ CT's Legislative Commission on Aging Opposes.** Connecticut's Legislative Commission on Aging opposes this bill. We believe the changes outlined in this bill will have adverse impact on older adults and persons with disabilities who have major medical illnesses.

This bill will make it easier for utility companies to terminate services to customers who are seriously ill and make the application process for hardship relief more complex and challenging for a consumer to navigate. Additionally, the bill also applies an asset test for relief for those with a serious illness. It is our understanding that an asset test is not necessary as existing state law prevents shut-off only if the applicant agrees to and complies with a payment plan.

The General Assembly has made a commitment to allow for individuals to age in place. In other words, to help people remain in their homes and communities as they age if they so choose. We are so grateful for the support of so many of you in these efforts. Providing consumer protections that allow people to remain at home is a critical component of aging-in-place policies. This bill does not consistent with those values. In fact, it weakens consumer protections for people in need and struggling.